



March 5, 2021

TESTIMONY OF KEITH CAGLE, PRESIDENT  
FRIENDS OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

RB 6355 AN ACT CONCERNING RISK PROTECTION ORDERS OR WARRANTS

Co-Chairs Senator Winfield and Representative Stafstrom, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Keith Cagle and I am President of Friends of Connecticut Sportsmen, a not-for-profit 501(c)(4) representing the interests of more than twenty member fish and game clubs throughout Connecticut and growing. Our member clubs have a long tradition of being stewards of the land and waterways in Connecticut, and the animal, bird and fish populations that inhabit them.

Friends of Connecticut Sportsmen opposes *Raised Bill 6355, An Act Concerning Risk Protection Orders or Warrants*.

Connecticut's current risk warrant law allows two law enforcement officers or state's attorney to petition for a confiscation. Any person, including family members, neighbors and co-workers, can meet with law enforcement and request a petition. Then, officers or the state's attorney must conduct their own investigation, moving forward with a petition *if they find it warranted*. Lowering the current threshold to the one contained in the bill is unsettlingly close to denial of due process, ripe for abuse and lacks a clear justification. The current law is working.

Before further eroding due process rights of citizen owners of firearms, we respectfully request that the Committee maintain the process within current risk warrant law and reject this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of the views of Friends of Connecticut Sportsmen.

Sincerely,

*Keith Cagle*

Keith Cagle, President